

209857



January 13, 2004

Mr. Vernon Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20423-0001

143X
**Re: Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. ~~153X~~) – Union Pacific Railroad Company –
Abandonment Exemption – in Monroe County, IA (Oskaloosa
Subdivision Between Eddyville, IA and Maxon, IA)**

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Union Pacific Railroad Company has received a request from the Iowa Trails Council for a 180-day extension in which to complete negotiations for the acquisition of that portion of the Union Pacific's right-of-way in Monroe County, Iowa between milepost 315.0 and 322.9 for an interim recreational trail. The Union Pacific is willing to continue to negotiate with the Iowa Trails Council concerning the acquisition of the subject property for interim recreational trail, **however, it will only support the Iowa Trails Council's request for an extension of the negotiation period for 45 days commencing January 5, 2004.** A copy of the Iowa Trails Council's request is attached hereto as Exhibit A and hereby made a part hereof.

An additional ten (10) copies of this letter and exhibit are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

Very truly yours,

Enclosures

cc: Tom F. Neenan, Iowa Trails Council
Ray Allamong
Jim Harrel
Lynda Prucha
Barbara Sadler - STB

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Office of Proceedings

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Mack H. Shumate, Jr.
Senior General Attorney, Law Department

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P O Box 131 Center Point, IA., 52213-0131 319-849-1844
Tom F. Neenan, Executive Director

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UNION PACIFIC RR CO.

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January 2, 2003

Secretary Vernon Williams
Surface Transportation Board
1925 "K" Street Northwest
Washington, D. C., 20423-0001

Re. AB 33 (Sub No 143X)

Dear Mr. Williams:

We have, as yet, not been able to conclude negotiations for the acquisition of the Union Pacific railroad right-of-way between Belmond and Thornton in Wright County and Cerro Gordo counties in Iowa, for conversion to a trail. Grant funding has become very difficult to obtain and we are not able, at this time, to raise sufficient funds to meet the asking price of the Railroad. We are continuing our effort in this regard and are hoping money will be freed up in 2004.

We are requesting another 180 day extension of time in which to complete these negotiations. We are mailing ten copies of this request and are faxing this day a copy of our request to the Union Pacific Railroad offices in Omaha and Chicago.

Thanking you for your kind consideration in this matter, I remain

Sincerely,

Tom F. Neenan

Affiliates: American Discovery Trail Society-American Hiking Society-Rails/Trails Conservancy

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